

# WHAT WE'LL WEAR

## Prediction Regarding the Capricious Summer Skirt

Special Correspondence of The Star.

NEW YORK, June 10, 1916. WHEN all is said and done in the world of clothes the skirt is the real mischief maker.

Its vagaries, its whims, its caprices and its malicious attitude toward a serene state of things kick the beam and send us flying up into the air and down to the earth. To a skirt, there is no such phrase as Mr. Cleveland's innocuous desuetude. If, by any possibility, it believes that the rest of the costume is in a state of contentment, it goes off on a violent tangent. It never leaves the designers in peace, and it keeps the public in a state of tumultuous turmoil.

It seems to be imbued with malicious cunning. No sooner does the entire world learn to cut and drape it in one fashion than it rearranges itself into

a new silhouette and throws the world into despair. The only part of the solar system that it emulates is the erratic track of a meteor. It has no sun, no planets, no moon, no outer rings to steady its orbit; it dashes through space, dwindling, enlarging, narrowing and widening.

The only fixed determination that it has is to change its shape as rapidly as possible. It knows quite well that by doing this it can make the rest of the costume utterly impossible if it is continued as it is. The most fashionable coat or bodice must be shelved if the skirt that goes with either decides to change its silhouette.

If it elects to have immense panniers at the hips, then a long coat is out of the question; if it covers itself with ruffles, the moyen-age cuirass is not harmonious. Each type of skirt demands a new type of jacket, waist, and so, whenever the erratic

skirt decides to upset the scales of fashion, there must be an entire costume to go with it. Skirts are in flux this month. No one is quite sure what will happen tomorrow. The French designers are whispering loud enough for the wireless to catch rumors that are sent across the ocean.

Over here, the fashion in skirts is like shifting sands; the surface formation is changing every week. The shops on Fifth avenue, the public wants another. The designers say that a multitude of ruffles, distended hips and material remain in fashion, and yet the smart women are buying skirts that are free from all these eccentricities and hang straight from the waist to the foot.

The skirt with a vague silhouette and with ruffles at one place and loopings at another, is the first offering to every woman who wants a new gown. And yet a woman can go across the street to an equally fashionable dressmaker and find a skirt laid in accordance with the latest fashion of trimming between waist and hem.

There is no doubt that the widely extended skirt, with its ruffles and loopings, placed somewhat after the manner of Marie Antoinette's time, is marked as the first fashion of the hour, and you can go to any smart event in the afternoon or evening and not find one of these present.

You are told that the fashionable skirt for a tailored suit extends in godet flares at the hem and is often trimmed with wide bands of itself or braid; and with your eyes sharpened to the suggestion with strict observance of what smart women are wearing, you notice that there are not a dozen skirts of this rioty wherever there is a mass of well-dressed women in their new summer suits.

You would say, without a tape measure, that not one skirt in a hundred measured over three yards, if that, and you find that any kind of trimming is conspicuous by its absence.

There is no evidence that skirts, even in their straightness, are to be fashioned from a scanty amount of material, but the emphatic fact about this fullness is that it hangs limply against the body and is not extended. This seems to be the verdict of the women who have to wear the garment—that most of these skirts look as though they had been hung out in the night air to take out the stiffness, or as if one had surreptitiously extracted all the hoose from a hoop skirt and allowed the material to sag.

Possibly that invention called the barrel skirt, which Callot and Douillet sent to this country, has been responsible for the change. These skirts, you will remember, had their extremities dimensions between the knees and the hips, the fullness below hanging limply to the ankles.

This original shape has been kept up, but it looks as though the greater amount of women are slipping out the need that keeps the fabric distended below the hips. The result is that this entire fashion is not considered first-class today.

There are still a number of skirts that have the distension below the waist at the side by means of immense pleated pockets that are held out by a reed; and yet the dressmakers who offer these gowns to fastidious women instantly assert that the reed can be taken out at once without spoiling the hang of the gown.

It has come to this—that the skirt which is widely extended at the hips or hem, made of muslin or taffeta, and trimmed with ruffles and sometimes roses, is already looked upon as a fanciful affair to be adopted only by the youthful beauty who likes to dress in a picturesque manner.

Would that there were more of her.

say the designers and the observers, for she forms a charming spot on the conventional background of American dressing. The blot on individuality is in those who take it up. These, very often, are unconventional, artistic people, who have wonderful ideas about pictures but none about clothes.

It is always a curious thing to the Philistine that many of the people who show no much about coloring in canvas and line in sculpture can present such an inharmonious aspect to fashionable society. In striving after individuality, and in studying both species in a microscopic way for several years, the writer has come to the conclusion that the only people who succeed in dressing in an individual and picturesque manner are those who are entirely familiar, at first hand, with purely fashionable dressing.

It is not that the rumors that skirts would grow longer, and against all the objections urged by dignified women, skirts are still so short that the manly continent with an output that is so varied, so extravagant, so colorful, that the days of the fifteenth century are suggested.

Regardless of the weather and any inconvenience that may be caused by the fashion, the high laced boot has embarked upon another social season. There are many of them, light kid, with or without stitching on the vamps and heels and always laced in front. The side and back laces are considered worse than ordinary, although the bootmakers continue to put it out.

There are many fashions in this world that women should not adopt, and certain types of shoes are among them. No argument along this line, however, is of much use. The introduction of the blue-green and maroon boots, availed last autumn to the amazement of the fashion world, has been a success. These gaudy vulgarities were adopted by hundreds of women, and the name of the shoe which was worn all winter with dark suits.

This was a caprice in which none but the rich could indulge and in which none of the rich did indulge. White spats were the rivals of white shoes, but they were more economical, as they did not come directly in contact with the mud and ice of city streets.

Because of the popularity of the white shoes in the winter those for summer are fashioned in the same manner for sports use. Tennis shoes reach ten inches from the ground and are made of canvas and many kinds of soft, undressed kid which are banded with black leather; and another kind is of the palest cream banded with brown leather.

Although the strappings of dark kid make the foot look smaller and give more style to a white shoe, the objection to them is the difficulty of cleaning; it is hard to keep the white paste off the black or brown leather, and it takes skill and patience to get it right.

There is very little return to the popularity of the flat-heeled, mannish pump with the bow across the vamp. It may, however, become popular later in the summer, for there is a strong tendency on the part of fashionable women to adopt flat-heeled shoes for morning and country use.

Since February smart women have been seen on the street wearing flat-heeled, round-toed, highly-polished

Russian leather oxfords with extra high spurs in a lighter shade of color. It is only a step from these to the flat-heeled, pump fashioned like the evening pump worn by a man.

The characteristic American foot, however, is thin at the heel, and a spat is needed to keep the pump securely on the foot. For that reason this pump may have a strong rival in the oxford tie with the Spanish heel.

This latter shoe, by the way, is the very smart shoe in Paris. Since the Parisienne has lost her frivolity she has dropped the wild and eccentric shoes that America adopted from her, and she has made fashionable one of the most sensible shapes in footwear—a highly polished, black oxford tie with broad ribbon laces tied at the top, a broadly rounded toe that follows the shape of the foot and a moderately high, straight, Spanish heel. And yet it is almost impossible to find this shape in an American shop. It was originally invented by America; it went through several countries with the stamp of our name upon it, and now, when all the smart Frenchwomen have taken it up and it is made with peculiar skill in that country, we of the United States are offered exaggerated Louis XV heels and needle-point toes, in which no woman can walk with health or security.

Any one who thought that topcoats belonged to a winter climate must be amazed at their steady growth with the hot weather coming on. The reason is not difficult to find. We are indulging in the frantic pleasure of entering a new era, we must look sportive, whether or not we are. We must go to open-air events. We must look as though we were familiar with tennis championships, the deck of swift-going motor yachts and horse racing; and topcoats of infinite variety are offered to the American public to aid in this appearance.

They are amazingly good-looking. So far we have left the designing of them almost entirely to the French, whether through inability or through indifference the reporter cannot tell. There are a few eminent examples of American designing that are worthy of the best French work, but these coats have not been available for the many; they have been priced for the exclusive.

Solid colors are used in the majority of topcoats, but there is no doubt of the strong grip that checks have. A thin, soft velvet that crumples up in the hand like satin is the material to be chosen, and the checks in it are in various colors.

Women who must be eccentric at all costs are wearing voluminous cape-coats of this velvet, checked off in exaggerated red, white and blue. As they pass by in motors one instinctively feels like saluting the dog.

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### COAT OF PURPLE SILK



SMART COAT OF PURPLE SILK. THE HIGH SOFT COLLAR IS LINED WITH BISCUIT-COLORED SILK.

### Smart Styles of the Season.

BLUE serge and blue gabardine tailored suits are the order of the day. The length of the jacket may vary to suit the individual taste. Some silk suit jackets are knee-length, some are shorter, and some are longer. They are usually hip length and generally fitted

Suit skirts are made with hip yokes, pleats all around, circular, and even gathered, or with cartridge pleats at the sides. Generally speaking, all of this fullness is centered at the sides, and the front and back left plain.

Most of the interest this season seems to be centered in skirts and sleeves. Bodices are simple and collars are permitted to take care of themselves. The three-quarter-length sleeve is well liked, as it permits the wearing of a soft suede glove that wrinkles on the forearm. Very often the three-quarter-length sleeve is made with a sheer cuff of some sort. The sleeves are full and trimmed, and smart in cut, but they are not bouffant, or on the balloon order.

Women today are seeking a degree of comfort in dress as well as chicness. Most of the fullness in sleeves is centered at the elbow, with the exception of the little puff on evening gowns.

Equally fashionable are the extremely full and untrimmed dress skirts and the over-elaborating skirts on which rows and rows of handkerchief, taffeta, puffs, drawwork, or ruffles are put. On the trimmed skirts no amount of labor is spared, whereas the untrimmed models rely upon the exuberance of the silk or other material for their success. Skirts are all full and flaring, whether they are cut circular, pleated, or comprised of groups of cartridge pleats at the hips.

Never before have petticoats been more charming. They are quite as important as the gown itself. Lovely silks are ornamented with filmy laces and ruffles. Garlands of rosebuds are held out at the hips by a reed of some kind or by a row of ruffles. Rows and rows of narrow lace ruffles ornament the hems. Lovely color combinations are used; in fact, anything may be freshened wonderfully in this manner. Use light blue on a blue rug, tan or orange for brown, light green for a green rug. Do not get the dye too dark or the rug will look muddy.

To remove ink from a rug or carpet, immediately sop sweet milk over the spot and dry as much as possible with a dry cloth. Then apply gasoline to take out the grease that the milk would otherwise leave. To remove soot from a carpet, sprinkle the spot with salt. Let the salt remain on the spot for about twenty minutes, then sweep it hard with a broom. The spot will disappear.

Greater fullness is seen at the top of all sleeves.

This season there are all-lace costumes trimmed with ribbon, and lace wraps as well. Deep flounces of black chintilly laces are effectively used on dressy costumes. A charming costume has two deep black chintilly lace flounces, lace sleeves and a lace basque, brightened by bands of Corbeus blue ribbon. When greater bouffancy is desired, a hoop is placed around the hips, or several rows of hair cloth are joined to the inside of the petticoat, or used to face the tiny flounces when the inch width is used. The newest models have the distension at the hips.

Frocks in white taffeta or other silk are worn in Norfolk style, fitted to the waist and then permitted to flare, or cut box style very flaring. Hip length suits suit old or young.

Evening wraps of somber-hued velvet have double collars lined with soft blue or pink. The bubbles disappear and others do not form.

When Filling a Fountain Pen. TO prevent annoyance from air bubbles, use narrow, tapering pieces of blotting paper, cut small enough to reach easily into the barrel of the pen. When touched with one of these blotting poles, the bubbles disappear and others do not form.

To Separate Postage Stamps. To damp weather, or by careless placing, postage stamps sometimes stick together. When this happens place them on a newspaper in a hot oven for a few moments. As soon as the stamps get hot the glue dries and by pressing between the fingers it is readily broken, and the stamps may be easily separated without the least damage.

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### CHIC STRIPED MUSLIN WITH RIBBON



PINK AND WHITE STRIPED MUSLIN, TRIMMED WITH BOWS OF BLUE RIBBON AND PINK ROSES. THE FICHU AND RUFFLED SKIRT ARE EDGED WITH NARROW PLEATING OF PINK.

### THE FAVORED SILKS.

TAFFETAS, crepes, grosgrains, failles, especially black satin. Taffeta, with its high luster and both soft and very slightly stiffened finish, has manifold uses. It is exactly suited to the distended, bouffant and frilly gown of today. Summer taffetas include stripes, checks, small mayflower blossoms and pompadour bouquets in subdued colorings that make up the evening styles, with a shirt of plain silk, chiffon accordion-pleated, mousseline embroidered and so on. Light gray, champagne, old rose and French blue shades are smart.

For elaborate evening gowns, tulle, net, mousseline and taffeta are worked up together with metal embroidery or metal embroidered lace applied, and the result is exquisite, as in the case of gold or silver. Skirts are made with overdresses of plain or printed taffeta, dry taffeta with pompadour bouquets is combined with old blue mousseline.

A late idea for the use of taffeta is a set of short directoire cape and hat to match. The hat is of taffeta or tulle, trimmed with the silk, and the short cape is edged with a tiny pleated ruffle, has a turnover collar and is draped over the shoulders. Longer capes or wraps in light shades of taffeta, faille, gros de Londres, etc., are worn in the evening. Some new printed taffetas have an inch or two-inch stripe in a cashmere design on a neutral ground. Others have simple lines of different lengths, geometrical in effect. Breche satin in rose designs with foliage on satin. Foulards in polka dots, rings, single blossoms, pompadour effects, mayflowers, and spring blossoms, such as clover, buttercups, etc., are smart.

Foulards are cool, durable and very attractive as a summer silk. Tinsel woven crepes, made up with cloth of gold or silver, make elegant evening costumes. A new crepe swansdown is as silky and downy as one can imagine. Just a little crepe, with the silky down finish that gives it a wonderful effect made up alone or with a satin taffeta, chiffon, etc.

### Couch Arrangement.

THE following way of making up a couch when used as a bed will prove satisfactory, provided the couch is of that type which has sides that can be let down like the swinging ends of a kitchen table. Make up the bed in the morning the same as ordinarily, but when the sheets and blankets are in place, instead of tucking them in at the sides, fold the blankets and then the sheets smoothly from the sides toward the center. Thus the bedclothes will occupy only the top of the couch, leaving the sides free. Then, on the sides, spread a cover free of the whole couch and a neat result will appear. Have for the pillows day covers like the couch cover, which can be easily stripped off at night.

### MEALS FOR EARLY SUMMER

THE watchword of summer menu-planning should be an abundance of fruit eaten raw or in simple combinations, plenty of fresh vegetables, eggs and fish, little meat, especially the red varieties. The body requires less heat-producing food during the warm weather. Many persons are less active physically, consequently there is even less need for as much food to supply muscular energy as in the colder season.

It is well to remember that thoroughly ripened and sound fruit should always be selected if possible. The largest fruit of its kind is usually the cheapest, as there is less waste in parings, seeds and cores. Moreover, the larger fruit is more perfectly matured, therefore more wholesome and of a finer flavor.

The vegetables should be used as soon as possible after gathering, which should be done before the heat of the day. The majority of vegetables should be put in boiling water and brought to the boiling point as soon as possible. Vegetables cooked in an uncovered receptacle have a more delicate flavor. A few drops of lemon juice or a pinch of baking soda will help to preserve the color in cooking green vegetables. All green vegetables should be cooked in salted water; roots and tubers in unsalted water.

Parse all vegetables, except turnips, as thin as possible. Parse turnips inside the dark, enclosing line. Parsnips, leeks, old cabbage and onions render them more digestible.

Avoid too great a variety of food at one meal. Three or four dishes of well combined food are sufficient. There is more danger of overeating in the summer months than of supplying

the system with insufficient nourishment. It is better to eat a moderate amount of oatmeal and cornmeal during the summer months, as they are strong in heat-producing elements. It is possible for every country housewife to lead at least a little touch of beauty to the meal by adding a few green leaves to the fruit she is serving for breakfast, or as a garnish to the dishes served for other meals. Take time to do this.

The following suggestions for a day's meals, possible substitutes for each dish being added in parentheses, mention only a few of the many resources which June offers to all housewives.

**Strawberry Shortcake.** To one cup of flour add one teaspoonful baking powder, one-fourth teaspoonful salt, one heaping tablespoonful of butter. Mix thoroughly with fork. Add one cup of sweet milk. Continue the use of fork until all flour is mixed in. Lay on board, knead with handful additional flour for several minutes and press with hand until one and one-fourth inches thick. If cut out with thin-edged tumbler this will make six short cakes. Let stand twenty to thirty minutes to rise. If gas oven is used place pan flat on the bottom immediately after lighting oven. In ten minutes turn down burners. When brown at bottom lift to top of oven to finish baking and to brown. If coal is used oven should be moderately hot at first. Bake fully twenty minutes, so as to be thoroughly dry through. Do not bake until ready to serve.

Have ready one box crushed straw-

**BREAKFAST.** Strawberries, (grapefruit), (Rhubarb, oranges, lemons), cereal with cream. (Any of the standard prepared breakfast foods), (Samp and hominy), (Crisp bacon, eggs—boiled, baker or scrambled—boiled fish), (Rice Muffins), (Crisp buttered toast, graham gems, cornmeal muffins, corn cakes), (Milk, Coffee or Cocoa Sherbets).

**DINNER.** Broiled Bluefish, (Roast chicken or fowl, roast lamb, lamb steak, cut or whole, with parsley sauce, bean loaf, macaroni or spaghetti), (Crisp lettuce with Green Peas), (Battered potatoes, new turnips, carrots, leeks, spinach or asparagus), (Applesauce), (Lettuce with cucumber and radish, or onion and radish, salad), (Indian Shortcakes), (Fruit Sauce), (Strawberry ice cream, pineapple sherbet, rice custard with fresh fruit), (Coffee).

**SUPPER OR LUNCHEON.** Hamlet, (Curried Rice and Peas), (Fresh mushrooms, Newburg, rice croquettes with jelly, timbales of chicken, fish or cheese; poached eggs on a bed of cooked spinach; asparagus on toast), (Graham Biscuits), (Small baking powder biscuits), (Cream Cheese and Cream Salad, with combinations with mayonnaise dressing, to which whipped cream is added), (Fruit salads, strawberry, pineapple, date, orange, banana, in various combinations), (Fruit Sherbet), (Tea, Hot or Cold, Cocoa or Milk).

berries. Add two-thirds to one cup granulated sugar. Let stand one hour. Butter short cakes while hot,

dip crushed berries over and serve with plain cream.

**Understand Your Refrigerator.** In order to preserve foods in a wholesome condition it is necessary to have a continuous rapid circulation of pure, dry air and a temperature below 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Never buy a refrigerator without being assured that rapid circulation and thorough insulation are provided.

**The Best Place for Your Food.** Acting on the principle that cold air falls, all foods which need the lowest degree of temperature for preservation should be placed in the bottom portion of the refrigerator. Butter should be kept in a covered receptacle of a material which does not absorb odors. If it is necessary to put foods having strong odors in the refrigerator place them on the top shelves. Store such food in covered receptacles—glass jars preferably—or in suitable dishes covered with paraffin paper. Storage dishes of enamel ware having straight sides are economical of space. As the air passes over the ice it absorbs the odors. The vapors and the odors are carried off in the water through the drain pipe. For the same reason all foods which are absorbent of odors should be placed on the bottom, where the air is purest.

Do not make the mistake of practicing false economy in the use of ice. A refrigerator cannot be kept at the necessary low temperature without ice expenditure. Keep the ice chamber well filled. The consumption of ice is thus reduced and a more rapid circulation is maintained. Do not cover ice with anything. It is false economy.

The proper constructed refrigerator should have double walls with several

layers of non-conducting material between the inner and outer walls. The refrigerator secures such a degree of insulation that a refrigerator may be kept in winter before it has been put in use.

Warm air enters only when refrigerator doors are opened. The interior should be of some smooth, non-absorbent material, without cracks or crevices, which can be easily cleaned.

**Care of Refrigerator.** Like all tools and equipment, one cannot expect good results without intelligent care. Always have the ice thoroughly cleaned before it is put into the ice chamber. Keep the ice and food chambers scrupulously clean. Wash them out thoroughly once a week, with hot soap suds, rinse in a washing water solution, and finally in hot water. Use a wooden skewer to remove all dirt from corners. Dry the food chamber thoroughly; air and sun the racks, if possible, by placing them in the sun. Entirely free from moisture before they are returned to the refrigerator. If the least bit of food is spilled, clean it up at once. Do not leave it over night or even for a few hours. This will prevent the growth of bacteria, which thrive best in moisture.

Clean the entire drain pipe with a brush and washing water solution, and seal with boiling water. Clean the trap at the outer end of the drain pipe, and the refrigerator pan. Be careful to see that the trap at the bottom of the pipe is so arranged as to prevent any possibility of odors entering the refrigerator through the drain pipe and of the cold air escaping from the refrigerator.

EMA PADDOCK TELFORD.

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